

Appln. No.: 09/988,934
Amendment Dated August 8, 2006
Reply to Office Action of June 7, 2006

MATP-613US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-30 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 3-4 and 8-9 are cancelled.

Claims 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to a mathematical algorithm without any practical application. Claim 7 is amended to include the step of "combining pixels lying along the determined angle to generate the interpolated pixel." Because claim 7, as amended, is not directed to a mathematical algorithm without any practical application, claim 7 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Claims 29-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because they include data structures which are not physical "things" nor statutory processes. Claim 29 is amended to recite, "[a] **tangible** computer readable carrier..." (Emphasis added). Basis for this amendment may be found in the specification at paragraph [0059]. Further, claim 29 includes computer program instructions to perform steps which are "functional descriptive material." Computer readable media including "Functional descriptive material" are statutory. (See MPEP § 2106 (IV)(B)(1)(a): "In contrast, a claimed computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program is a computer element which defines structural and functional interrelationships between the computer program and the rest of the computer which permit the computer program's functionality to be realized, and is thus statutory."). Because claim 29 is directed to a tangible computer readable carrier including "functional descriptive material," claim 29 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claim 30 depends from claim 29. Accordingly, claim 30 is also not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Claims 1, 11-13 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious in view of Shin et al. and Acharya et al. Reconsideration of this rejection is requested. In particular, neither Shin et al., Acharya et al. nor their combination discloses or suggests:

...determining a ratio of the first and second gradient intensity values by identifying one of the first and second magnitude values as being larger than the other magnitude value and calculating a difference value between the larger magnitude value and the other magnitude value;

processing the ratio of the first and second gradient intensity values to determine an approximate angle of the edge by reflecting the edge angle about a

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predetermined reference angle if the first magnitude value is greater than the second magnitude value; and

comparing the first and second gradient intensity values and changing the angle of the edge in sense from positive to negative if first and second gradient intensity values are opposite in sense...

Both Shin et al. and Acharya et al. are described in the previous response. Basis for the amendment to claim 1 may be found in claims 3 and 4. No new matter has been added. Because claim 1 includes features that are neither disclosed nor suggested by Shin et al. nor Acharya et al., claim 1 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious in view of Shin et al. and Acharya et al.

Claims 11-13 and 29 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, claims 11-13 and 29 are also not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious in view of Shin et al. and Acharya et al.

Claim 7, while not identical to claim 1, includes features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Consequently, claim 7 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Shin et al. and Acharya et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Claims 8 and 9 are canceled by this amendment.

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 15-28.

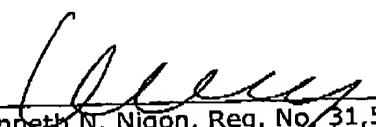
Applicants also appreciate the indication in the Office Action that claims 2-6 and 14 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claim. Claims 3 and 4 are canceled by this amendment. Claims 2, 5, 6 and 14 depend from claim 1 and are not subject to rejection for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objections to claims 2, 5, 6 and 14 and the rejection of claims 1, 7 10-13 and 29-30.

Respectfully submitted,


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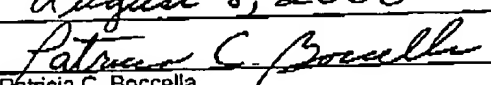
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Dated: August 8, 2006

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (571-273-8300) on the date shown below.

August 8, 2006

Patricia C. Boccella

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